

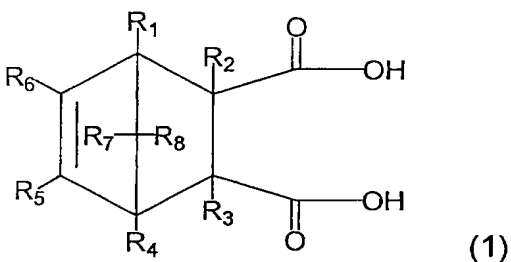
I. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-19 as follows.

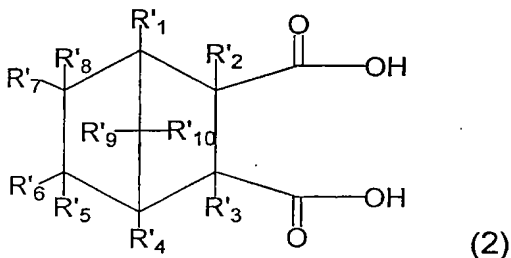
The following claims replace all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~general~~ formula (1),



wherein, R₁ to R₈ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group, or an anhydride thereof, or formula (2),



wherein, R'₁ to R'₁₀ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group, or an anhydride thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a mixture comprising mainly the endo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or an anhydride thereof, and the exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or an anhydride thereof;

(b) mixing the mixture with an alkali metal hydroxide~~a basic compound~~ and a solvent;
and

(c) filtering the mixture obtained in step (b) to separate an aqueous phase and a solid phase, thereby separating the endo isomer from the exo isomer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, wherein said dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the ~~general~~ formula (1) or an anhydride thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide~~basic compound~~ is used in a quantity that achieves at least 0.2 equivalents relative to the endo isomer, and no more than 8 equivalents relative to the mixture.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the solvent is used in a quantity of at least 0.7 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture, and no more than the larger of either 10 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture or 20 g relative to 6 mmol of the endo isomer.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula (1)~~ or an anhydride thereof is 5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid or an anhydride thereof.

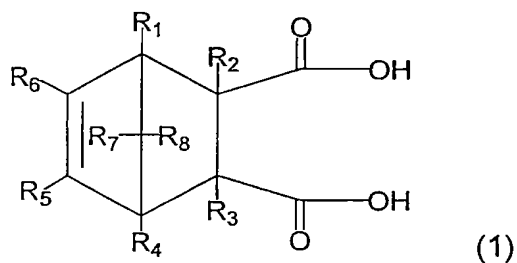
6. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, wherein said dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a carboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula (2)~~ or an anhydride thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 6, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide~~basic compound~~ is used in a quantity that achieves at least 0.35 equivalents and no more than 8 equivalents relative to the mixture.

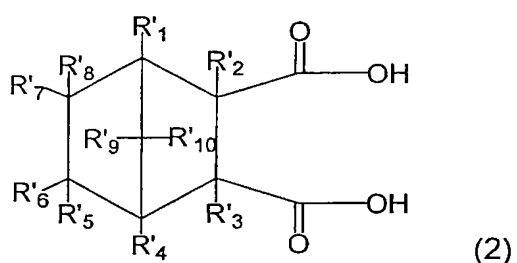
8. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to either claim 6, wherein the solvent is used in a quantity of at least 0.7 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture, and no more than 20 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 6, wherein the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula (2)~~ or an anhydride thereof is norbornane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid or an anhydride thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~general~~ formula (1),



wherein, R₁ to R₈ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group, or formula (2),



wherein, R'₁ to R'₁₀ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a mixture comprising mainly the endo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula (1) or (2), and the exo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula (1) or (2);

(b) mixing the mixture with a solvent; and

(c) filtering the mixture obtained in step (b) to separate an aqueous phase and a solid phase, thereby separating the endo isomer from the exo isomer.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 10, wherein said salt of a dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula~~ (1).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 11, wherein the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula~~ (1) is a salt of 5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 10, wherein said salt of a dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula~~ (2), with a solvent.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 13, wherein the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula~~ (2) is a salt of norbornane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, wherein step (c) is a step of filtering a mixture obtained from the mixing step, and either obtaining an endo isomer of a salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula~~ (1) or (2) as a liquid phase, or obtaining an exo isomer of a salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general formula~~ (1) or (2) as a solid phase.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 15, further comprising the step of obtaining an endo isomer or an exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula (1) or (2), from the endo isomer or the exo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the ~~general~~ formula (1) or (2).

17. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 15, further comprising the step of obtaining an endo isomer or an exo isomer of an anhydride of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula (1) or (2) from the endo isomer or the exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula (1) or (2) or a salt thereof.

18. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) An endo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof, obtained using the method according to claim 1.

19. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) An exo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof, obtained using the method according to claim 1.